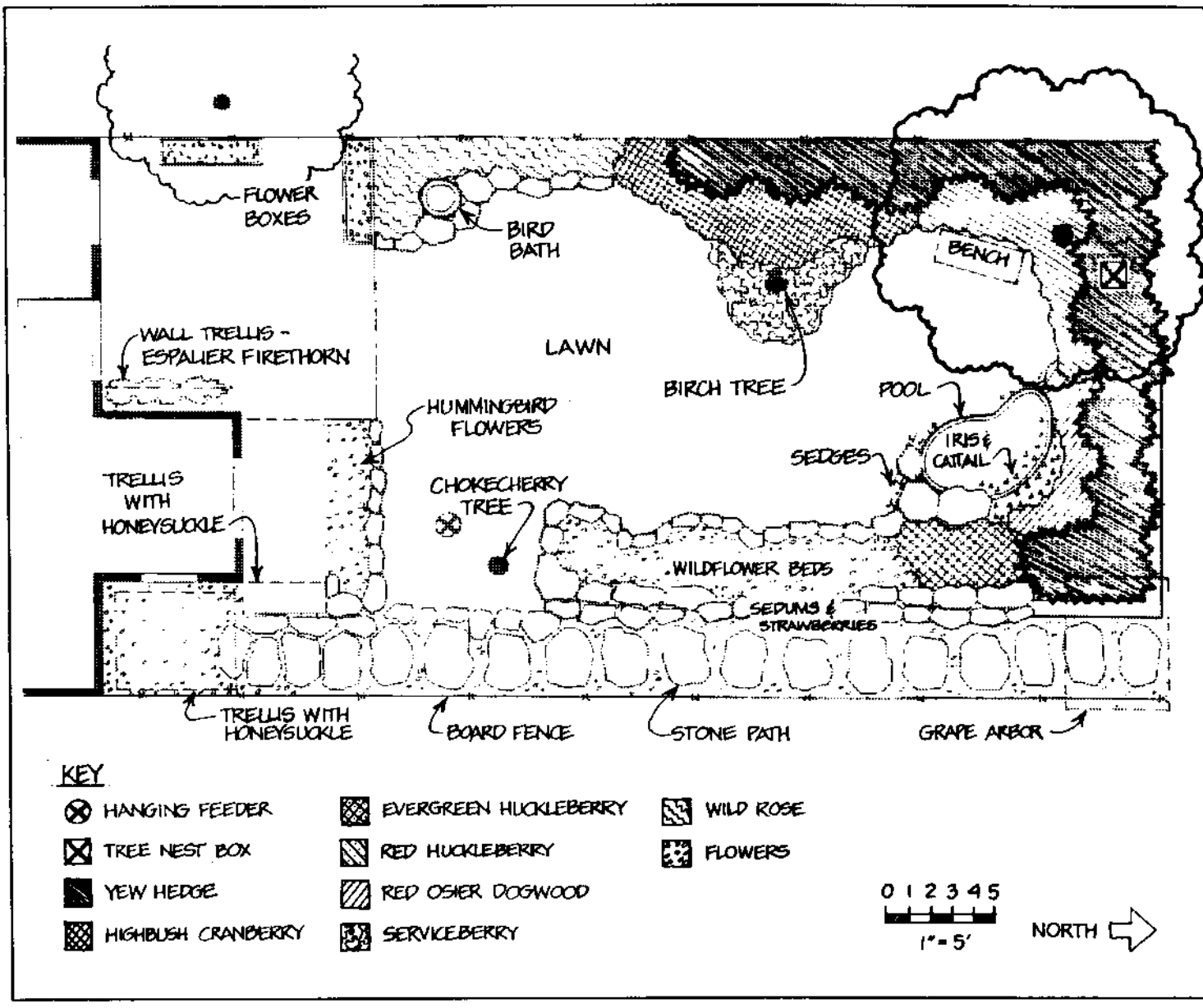


Urban Wildlife Series
Washington Department of Wildlife

Landscape Design for Wildlife

When we hear the word "wildlife", we often think of creatures we rarely see, like eagles, otters, bear, elk, and cougar. If you happen to live in a rural area, these animals may be a part of your backyard wildlife. But for most of us, urban life seems to have no "wild" side; animals are something we must go elsewhere to see.

Despite the notion that wildlife live somewhere beyond our towns and cities, a typical neighborhood in Washington will have more than 25 kinds of birds and mammals. Hawks, raccoons, and even foxes are frequent visitors in some neighborhoods. Robins, squirrels, and chickadees are so familiar that we hardly think of them as wildlife. Yet these animals that we take for granted are as much "wildlife" as eagles and elk, and you don't have to go to the wilderness to enjoy them - they are as close as your own backyard.

Whether you have existing landscape or are starting from the ground up, this booklet will help you landscape your yard for wildlife. It will describe the needs of wildlife, how to inventory and evaluate the wildlife habitat on your property, and how to make your yard better for wildlife. Whether you spend a weekend, a year, or a lifetime doing it, your backyard can become a better home for the wildlife already using it and a home for new "wild neighbors".

The Backyard Habitat

Habitat is...
Food *- Seeds, berries, nuts, flower nectar, insects*
Water *- Birdbaths, drip faucets, sprinklers, ponds, puddles, streams*
Shelter *- Trees, shrubs, brush piles, rock walls, rock piles, hollow logs, snags*
Space *- Corridors, territories, quiet space, open space*

Good environmental stewardship begins in our own backyards. While everyone's backyard will have varying amounts of "nature," every backyard is a habitat and each of us a habitat manager. As good habitat managers, our task is to strengthen and maintain a healthy living community.

When we plant trees, shrubs, and flowers around our homes, we are also building homes for a whole community of animals. Even if we plant only a few useful plants, we are improving the habitat for wildlife.

"Habitat" consists of food, water, shelter, and space. The key to enhancing your yard for wildlife is to provide one or all of these basic needs.

Food

Having a variety of food sources in your yard allows many kinds of wildlife to use it. Provide a good mix of plants that produce seeds or fruits at different times of year. Insects are a very important part of the diet of most songbirds, so try to avoid insecticides. After providing trees and shrubs, you may want to consider bird feeders. These are described in our publication "Winter Feeding of Wild Birds Around the Home".

Water

Animals will walk, fly, or crawl great distances just for a drink because some form of water is essential. Having a birdbath or other source of water in your yard will serve as a magnet to many kinds of wildlife.

Shelter

Wildlife must have safe places where they can rest, escape danger, find shelter from bad weather, and raise their offspring. Most animals find shelter in trees or shrubs. Leaf litter and dead branches provide shelter for insects and amphibians. Put in buffers of dense vegetation between wildlife areas and busy areas such as driveways. If possible, designate a special area of your yard exclusively for sensitive wildlife.

Space

Is your backyard habitat large enough for wildlife? Most birds and mammals need much more total area than an average quarter-acre backyard, but that doesn't mean they won't visit or even nest in your yard. Plus, an animal's space requirements may be less if the resources are abundant and concentrated in a good backyard habitat. Space requirements are all the more reason to encourage your neighbors to improve their yards for wildlife.

Habitat Quality

Diversity:

In addition to providing basic wildlife needs, your backyard habitat should have other attributes. These will help your design becomes a livable (and lasting) place for wildlife. Consider the following when designing your yard: **Diversity, Layering, Edges,** and **Native Plants**.

Diversity is provided by having a good mix of different types of plants. To attract many species of wildlife, provide a **variety** of evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs, young and old trees, and different seed-bearing, fruit-bearing, and nectar-producing shrubs and flowers. See Figure 1.

Diversity

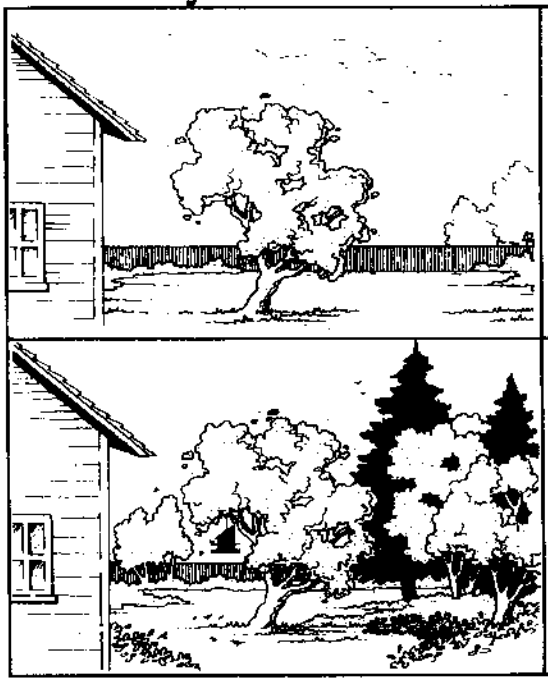


Figure 1. A habitat with variety—or **diversity**—means wildlife will have more to choose from, so they are more likely to find what they need. Habitat diversity allows more animals to successfully coexist in your yard.

Layering:

Naturally occurring plants grow in many layers (tall trees, understory trees, tall shrubs, short shrubs, and ground cover), rather than all at the same height. This also enhances the *diversity* of the habitat.

Layering can be accomplished by having the tallest trees at the edge of your property. In front of these should come the smaller deciduous trees, then tall shrubs, lower shrubs, and finally the ground cover. Plants and ground covers tolerant of shade should also be planted underneath the tall plants. See Figure 2.

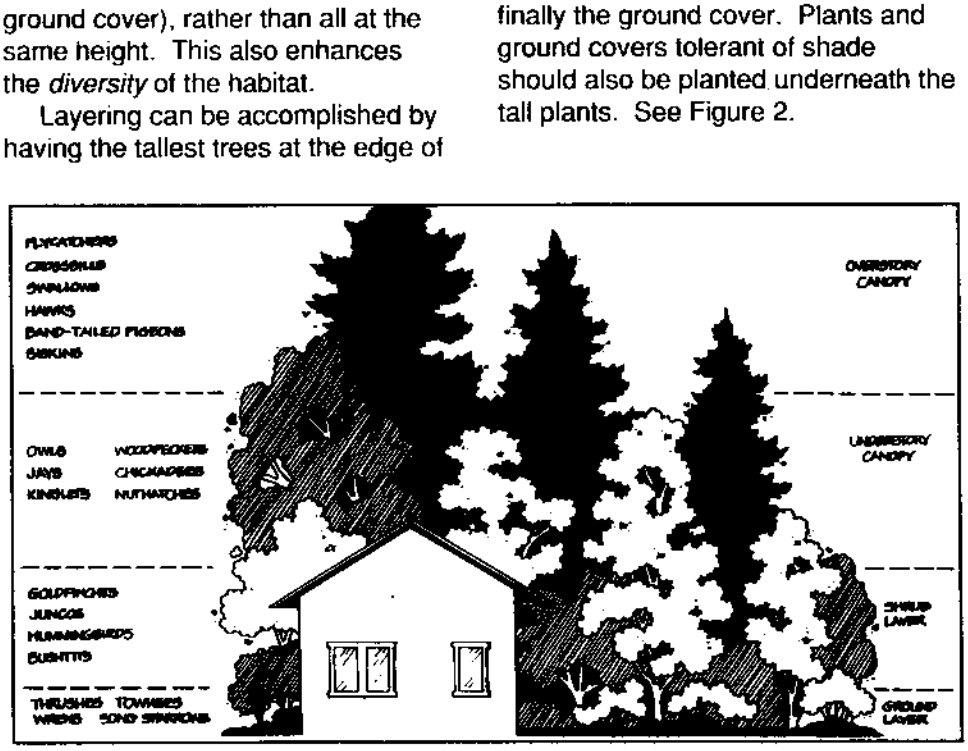


Figure 2. Different species of wildlife, especially birds, live at different heights in the vegetation. Having many layers of vegetation in your landscape allows wildlife to select the layer to which they are best adapted for survival. Missing plant layers = missing wildlife species.

Native plants:

The best habitat for native wildlife is one with native plants, plants that have evolved and occur naturally in your area. Native plants are more closely matched to local soils, climate and wildlife. They will be better in the long-run at providing the right kinds o food, shelter and diversity needed by wildlife. Native plants often need less watering, spraying, pruning, fertilizing and other maintenance than exotic o imported plants.

While some native plants are readily available, others may be difficult to find. Check with specialty nurseries or landscape architects listed in the yellow pages, or call the Urban Horticulture Center (206-543-8618) at the University of Washington. Washington State University Cooperative Extension publishes a specialty nursery guide including native plant sources; contact your local county extension office. When is not possible to use native plants, choose plants that are adapted to local site conditions (see our publication "Plants for Wildlife in Western/ Eastern Washington").

Edges:

Edges occur where one habitat type meets another habitat type. For example, edges occur where trees and shrubs meet a meadow or stream. Edges are important because they support a great variety of wildlife.

Most backyards can use the "edge effect" to benefit wildlife. The edges in your yard, such as between your lawn and trees, should mimic natural edges as closely as possible. This means there should be many layers of vegetation with curved and irregular borders, much like along a natural stream. See Figures 3.

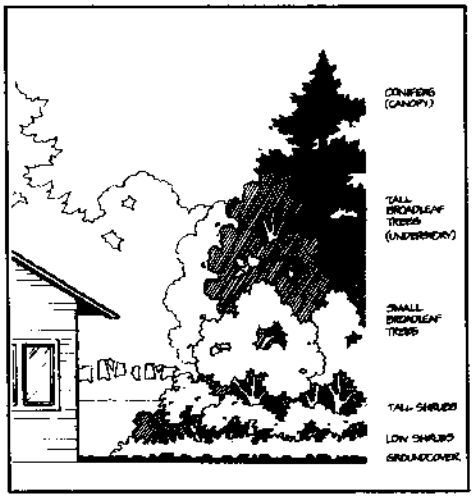


Figure 3. Edges occur where different types of habitat meet. This example shows a forest edge meeting a cleared opening.

How to Design a Landscape for Wildlife

Landscaping your yard for wildlife involves a bit more than simply adding plants with berries. Landscaping for wildlife means considering other aspects of the environment such as water, soil, climate, and sun, and how these work together to support a living community.

Don't be discouraged if you have never designed your own landscape, and don't worry if you don't have a college degree in wildlife science. It can be fun, and we've included all of the information you will need.

Planning

Every good landscape starts with a plan. Having a site plan will help you to establish priorities and properly guide the development of your yard over the years.

Many of us do our planning by "trial and error", like moving couches and chairs when trying to find just the right look for the living room furniture. However, it's not easy to move trees around to find the best landscape arrangement. An important part of planning a landscape for wildlife is considering alternative arrangements on paper before beginning any work. It will help prevent costly mistakes and wasted time. Also, planning helps you identify ecological relationships in your yard that might not be obvious at first.

Creating a landscape for wildlife involves four basic steps. The rest of this booklet talks about each of these four steps in greater detail. The steps are illustrated with an example of a typical suburban lot.

The Four Basic Steps of Landscape Planning for Wildlife

1. **Outline needs**
2. **Inventory existing conditions**
3. **Evaluate conditions**
4. **Design a plan**

1. Outline Needs

Your needs

Think about how you like to use your backyard. Do you like to eat or visit with family and friends in a shaded area? Do you like to read in a quiet, secluded spot? Do your children like to play in a sandbox?

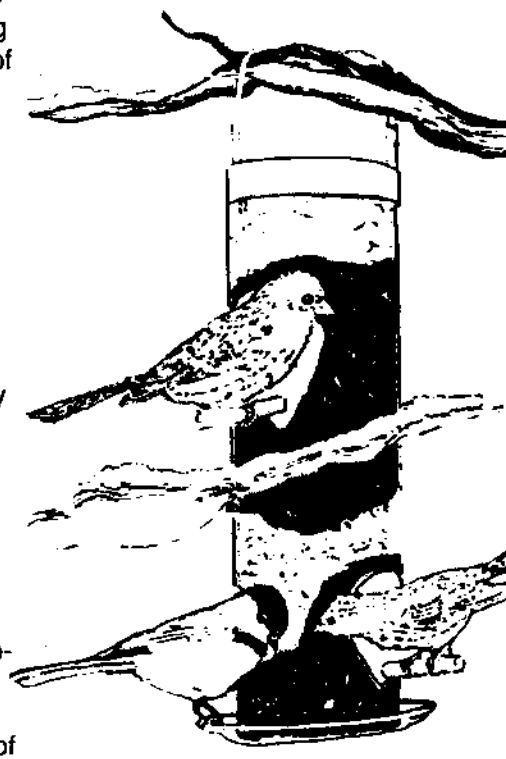
Your backyard can provide for these and other activities while providing for the needs of wildlife. Wildlife enhancement doesn't mean giving up your outdoor activities, but rather using greater sensitivity when designing them into your backyard.

For example, separate your high use areas from those areas set aside for more sensitive wildlife. In defining your needs, make a list of the kinds of activities, features, spaces, and qualities you want in your yard. General garden design books are good sources of ideas and are available at your local library.

Wildlife needs

Each wildlife species requires a unique combination of the four basic habitat needs. For example, the only way to attract a chickadee is to have the proper kinds of food, water, shelter, and space needed by that bird. The presence (or absence) of wildlife is often simply a symptom of the presence (or absence) of these four basic needs.

Meeting all of the different requirements for many wildlife species may seem overwhelming! After all, we often don't know exactly what kinds of food, how much water, what kind of shelter, and how much space a chickadee needs. And most of us don't know exactly how the needs of a chickadee differ from those of a nuthatch, swallow, or robin. Don't despair! The requirements for survival for most of the small wildlife in residential areas of Washington can be met by providing an abundance of different trees and shrubs in the landscape. ***Vegetation is the key*** to attracting most species of wildlife!



2. Inventory Existing Conditions

The second step in designing a landscape for wildlife is to inventory and map the existing conditions in your yard. After all, it's difficult to know where you're going if you don't know where you're starting.

The information obtained during the inventory must be put on a **base map** of your property. Making a base map isn't difficult, and it will help you create an effective habitat. The purpose of the inventory base map is to help you know what you already have in your yard and what you need to add to make it better for wildlife. An example of a base map is shown in Figure 4.

This base map will be used in the last two steps: **evaluating** your yard and **designing** a habitat site plan. You will be adding different ideas and possibilities to your base map, so either use tracing paper over the map or make several photocopies of it.

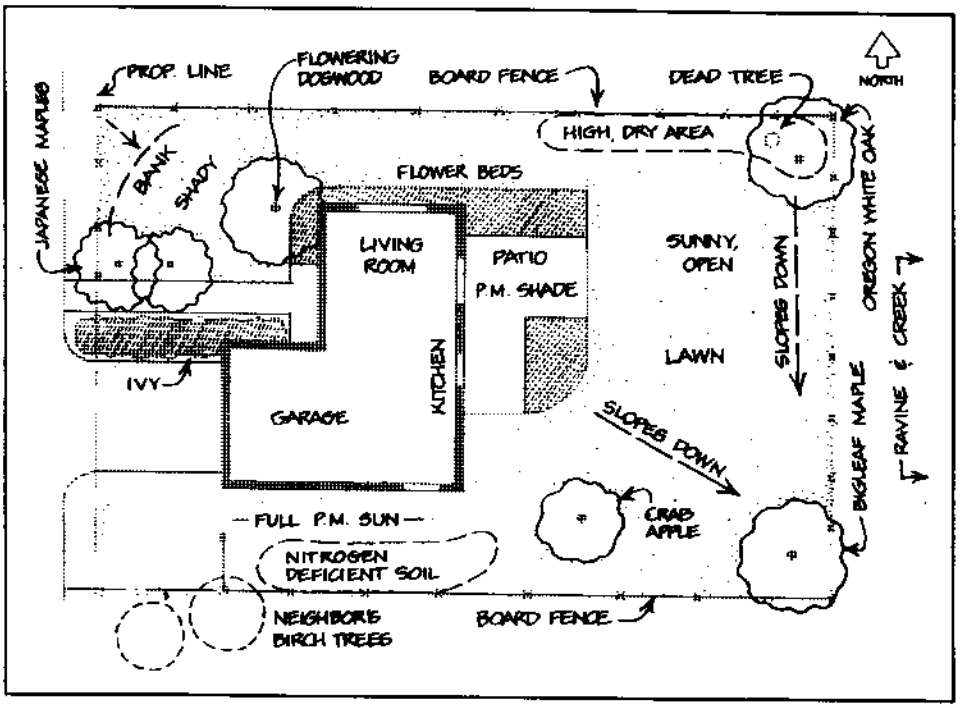


Figure 4. Base map and inventory of existing conditions.

How to Inventory and Map

Step 1: Determine the dimensions of your property. Then decide on a scale for your map - how big you want the map to be and how much detail you want to show. For example, a map drawn at a scale where I inch on paper equals 4 feet on the property will be larger and show more of the small features than a map drawn at a scale of 1" = 16'. Mark the scale and a north-pointing arrow on your map.

Your base map will be easier to make and read if you use a ruler or architect's scale, colored pencils and markers of varying widths, grid paper, and templates for drawing circles, squares, and other shapes.

Step 2: On the base map, indicate dimensions and show the location of your house and other buildings, including outside doors & windows, decks, patios, sidewalks, driveways, utilities, and other structures listed on the **checklist** (page 11). Show underground pipes, sprinklers, utilities, etc.

Step 3: Show locations and approximate spread of existing trees, shrubs, lawn, and other vegetation features. Note any plants that affect energy conservation and comfort in your home (summer shade, winter sun, shelter from wind, etc.) Show any diseased or problem plants.

Step 4: Mark the locations of special wildlife features on your base map. These include tree cavities, nesting areas, favorite perches, drinking and feeding areas, and travel corridors.

Step 5: Outline areas of full sun and full shade. Record drainage patterns (where rain water falls & collects), wet areas (maybe this is where you could put a pond), ponds and streams, slopes, and wind patterns.

Step 6: Show neighboring trees, buildings, roads, and other things on adjacent property that affect your yard.

Step 7: Examine your soil and note areas where soils may be different. Is it rocky, sandy, clay, or organic? If you want, you can test the soils in each of these areas for soil composition, acidity, and nutrients. Test kits can be purchased at garden supply stores, or you can obtain a soils test kit from your local WSU Cooperative Extension Office. The Extension Office will provide instructions and the address of a soils laboratory where your soil can be scientifically tested for a modest fee.

3. Evaluate Conditions

Now that you have made an inventory of your backyard, you can evaluate its present and potential effectiveness as a "habitat". As you think about your design, look at your yard as a potential home—for both you and wildlife.

An easy tool for evaluating your yard is the "**bubble diagram**". Bubble diagrams are preliminary sketches drawn on tracing paper or photocopies of the base map. Sketch only broad areas of interest and potential; avoid details (which will probably change later anyway!). Draw circles around areas as if they were "blobs" of space, ignoring details of shapes. Use heavy arrows to show views an heavy lines to show "walls" of vegeta tion or structures. An example of a bubble diagram is shown in Figure 5.

What to Think About When Evaluating Your Yard

Structures, hard surfaces & people areas. Consider your space requirements for access, entertainment, outdoor play, and security. Screen and buffer busy driveways and play areas. What areas are not good for attracting wildlife because of too much disturbance? Where might tree roots interfere with septic or sewer systems? Screen bare fences with dense shrubs.

Vegetation. Does your present landscape provide much food, cover, and safe travel corridors for wildlife? How many of your plants are native to the Pacific Northwest? Are there unused lawn areas that could be replanted with native trees and shrubs? What areas have low diversity and need a shrub layer or better mix of plants? Where can edge be increased by modifying planting borders? Are there solitary trees that could have shrubs and groundcover put under them? Where would a screen of plantings improve outdoor privacy? Could a portion of a vegetable garden be "given" to wildlife? Where are the most important wildlife trees? Where could you plant specialty gardens for hummingbirds and butterflies?

Wildlife features. Where does wildlife concentrate now? How could these areas be improved or preserved? Are there dead trees or limbs that can be safely preserved for perching or nesting? If a tree has to be removed, could you leave a 6'-10' stump to make a nest cavity? Where would be a good spot for a feeder, bird house, or bird bath? Do you have a corner where you could build a brush or rock pile for ground-dwelling wildlife?

Environmental conditions. Where are the sun and shade areas? Do you need shade from the hot summer sun, and do you need to preserve valuable winter solar radiation? Where do cool summer breezes come from and where might you want buffers from cold winter winds? Could steep slopes be enhanced for wildlife with a rock outcrop? Would a low, wet area be a good place for a pond? Does an existing stream or pond have adequate shrub cover?

Adjacent conditions. Will a neighboring building shade out your planned vegetable garden? Will a busy road pose a danger to any animals you want to attract? Will your new pond kill the roots of a valuable neighboring tree? Will your neighbors cooperate in your landscaping efforts or do they plan to clear vegetation? Will your habitat cause any problems for a neighbor?

Soil conditions. Are there "problem" soils (e.g. poor nutrients, water-logged)? Could you use those problem conditions to create special habitats with plants? Can soils be modified with organic matter or minerals? Where do you need to improve the soil? (Consult with a nursery or landscape specialist, county extension agent, the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, or other plant and soil experts).

Visual/spatial qualities. Where are the desirable and undesireable views from different parts of the yard, deck or windows? How can these be saved or changed with plantings? What are your outdoor spaces like: open/enclosed, small/large, varied/uniform, formal/natural, smooth/rough, colorful/plain, comfortable/uncomfortable? What feelings does your yard bring out in you, and what feelings do you want? How could different plantings enhance these feelings?

Functions/activities. How much yard work do you want to do? Where are good areas for outdoor play, entertainment, and relaxation? What are the best pathways for moving around in the yard? Where do you want outdoor privacy? Is there a bare, noisy area that would be better for a driveway, swimming pool, or entertainment area than for wildlife plantings?

4. Design a Plan

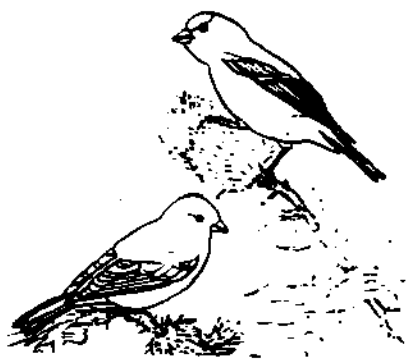
While having the right habitat features is very important, the way in which you "put it all together" in this last step could add greatly to the success of your habitat. The wildlife nesting area that you wanted in a patch of woods may not be used if it is crisscrossed by busy paths, and few wildlife will venture into your quiet viewing area if it is surrounded by a basketball court and driveway.

Design ideas

Begin designing a site plan by drawing out your ideas on bubble diagrams using photocopies or tracing paper laid over your base map. Don't worry at first about how workable your ideas are; get them down on paper and fine-tune later. Decide where spaces and features will go and experiment with reshaping, reducing, enlarging, relocating, or adding features to fit your needs and goals. Draw bubbles around areas where you want activities, such as children's play, entertainment, or wildlife observation. Use circles, x's or other symbols for features such as a birdbath or bench. Draw arrows where you want views and dotted lines for potential pathways.

Note **types** of (not specific) plants you want to put in, such as conifers, low deciduous shrubs, or tall evergreen hedge. It may be helpful to write in some of your ideas and objectives, such as build deck around this tree, keep view of pond from living room, or relocate barbecue to patio. See Figure 6.

Your final plan will be most successful if you develop several of these bubble diagrams. For example, you may have a "Plan A" that gives over more space to wildlife, and "Plan B" that gives more space to human activities. Or you may develop three different plans that range from highest to lowest cost or most change to least change. The more experimenting you do on paper, the more likely you will avoid future problems when implementing your final plan. There is no one best answer; everyone's habitat will be different, and you may come up with more than one good plan for your own.



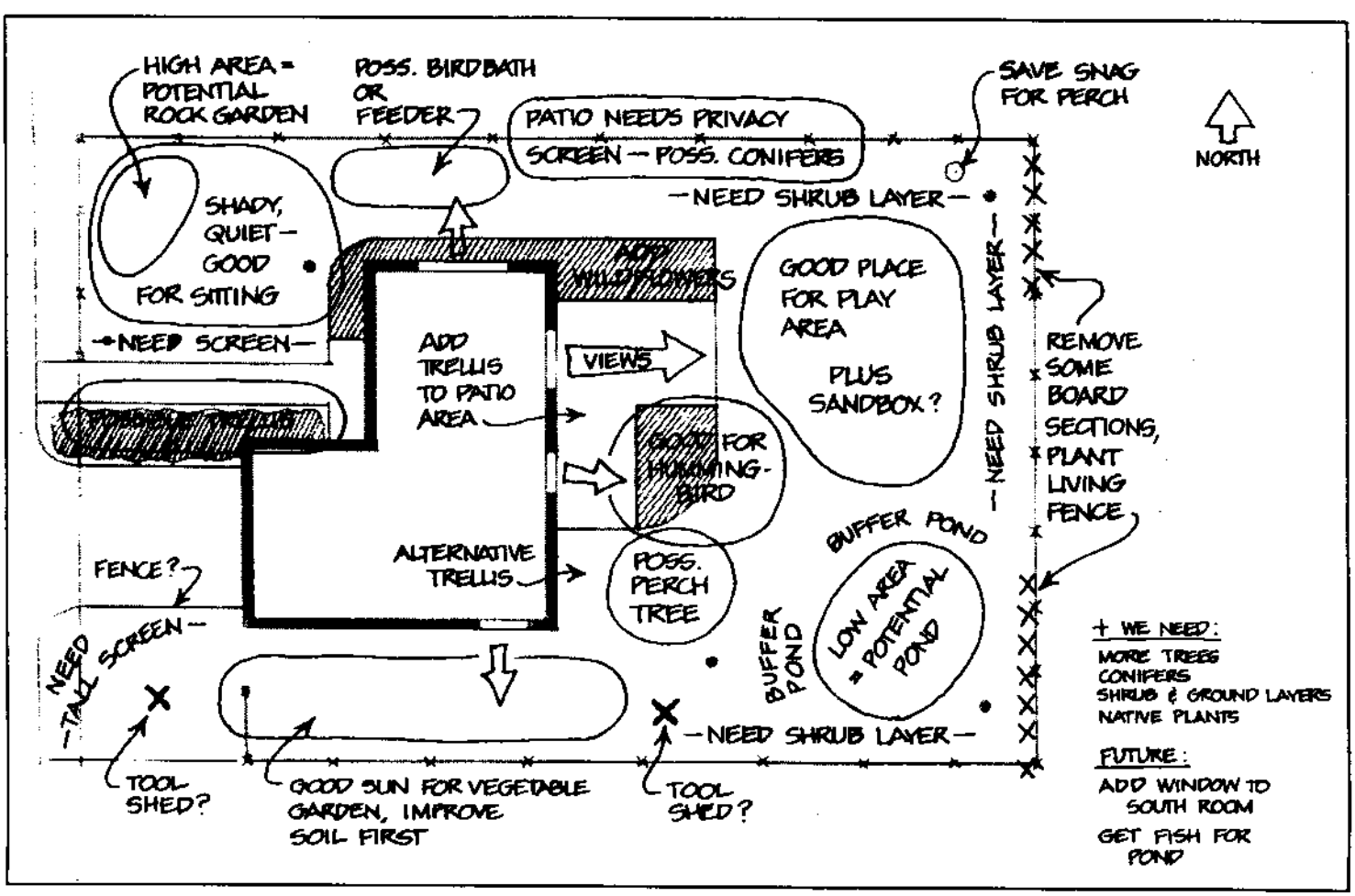


Figure 5. An evaluation of existing conditions and future possibilities is sketched in bubble diagrams to outline preliminary ideas for the landscape.

Design Principles

Maximize undisturbed areas

As much as possible, provide large areas without buildings, paving, or paths. Provide some "undisturbed" sanctuaries and safe travel corridors for sensitive wildlife.

Concentrate & contain human activity areas

Disturbance to wildlife can be lessened if areas with busy human activity are put close together and kept as small as possible. Avoid putting busy human activities in good existing wildlife habitat.

Preserve existing trees

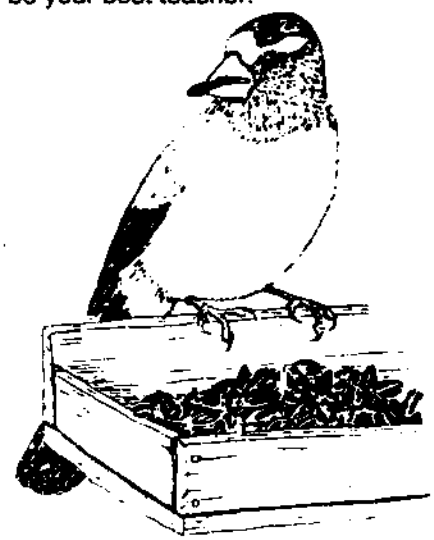
Old well-established trees or ones that form clumps are especially valuable. Avoid putting new features or structures where they will damage existing trees. Remember that a tree's roots grow far out from its trunk, and construction too close to the roots may affect the tree.

Provide opportunities for viewing wildlife

Locate and shape human activity areas, such as patios and decks, so that wildlife can be viewed from those locations. Also consider views from inside the house.

Respect the wisdom & logic of nature

Nature is the best model for a healthy and valuable wildlife habitat. In nature, things are the way they are and where they are because of complex ecological relationships. Nature understands this perfectly, while we have only incomplete knowledge. For some ideas of how nature provides for wildlife, look at the arrangements of plants along a stream or pond, around a meadow, or in a forest. The amount and arrangement of plants in a good backyard habitat should be similar to these natural areas. Let the natural world be your best teacher.



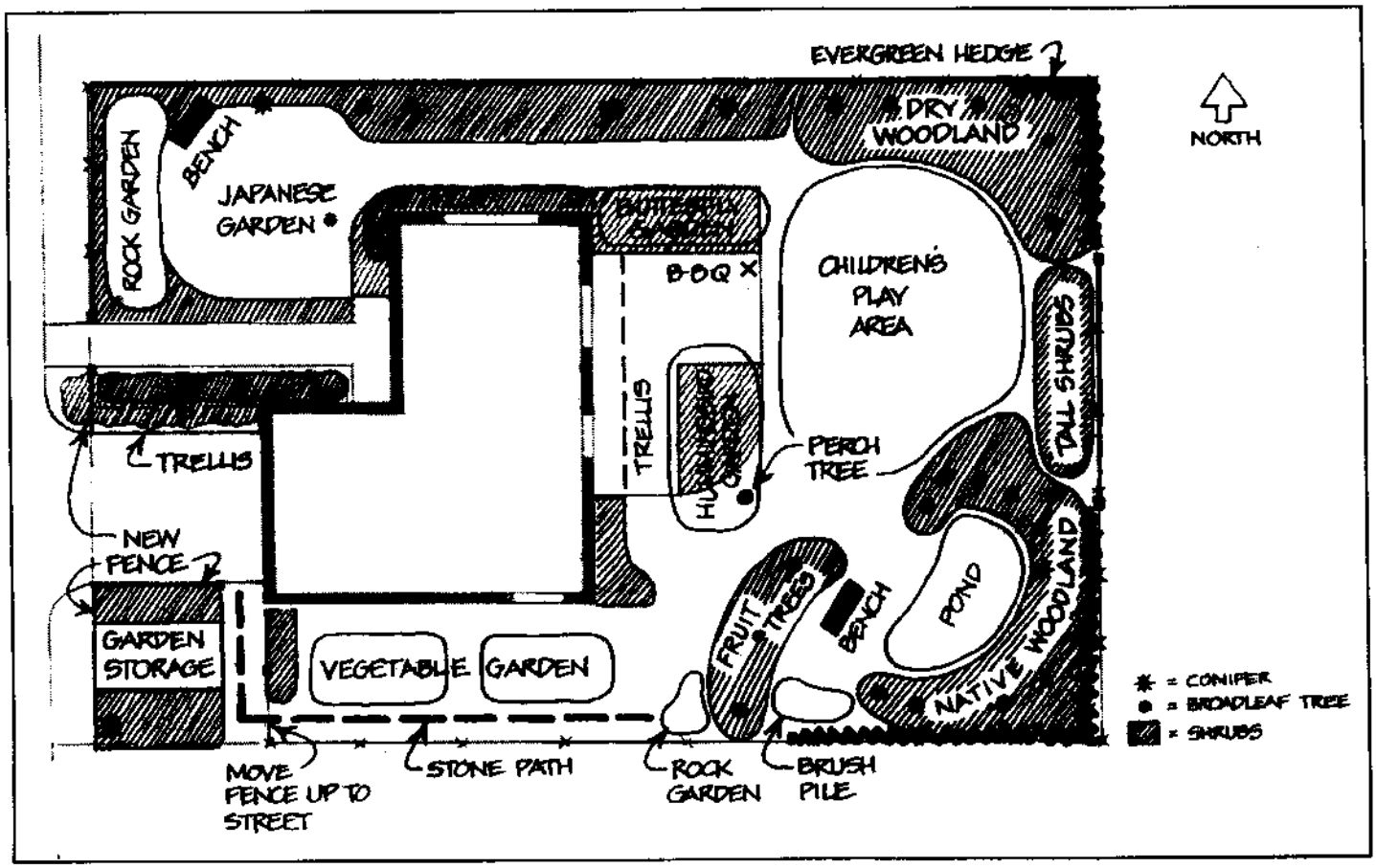


Figure 6. Experiment with different designs using bubble diagrams. Testing ideas on paper is easier than rearranging plants in the yard. Try to develop several alternative designs.

Habitat Landscape Plan

After you have drawn your ideas, compare these preliminary plans to see which best fits your needs and those of wildlife. You can combine the best features of each to make your ideal plan. Once you've decided what you want, you now need to turn your bubble diagram into a specific landscape plan. Now is the time to add the details of plant species and materials (such as types of paving or fencing), and exact locations and dimensions of these features.

The most involved task will be selecting plants for different parts of your yard (see page 10). For example, if you want a tall evergreen hedge for privacy: which plants have dense foliage, grow about 10 feet tall, can tolerate your specific environmental conditions, **and** are good for wildlife? Or, for summer shade and winter sun: what plants are deciduous, grow to 30 feet or more, and offer good food for wildlife? Plants that meet these various conditions can be found in our publication *Plants for Wildlife in Western/Eastern Washington.*

Other details will need to be added. For example, if you want a pond you need to determine if it will be excavated, whether lined with a flexible liner or clay or both, how it will be cleaned, and if you want recirculating water.

When all details have been worked out, you can draw up a final habitat plan. Accuracy is important, because it will be the "blueprint" that will guide your habitat construction and development over time. See Figure 7.

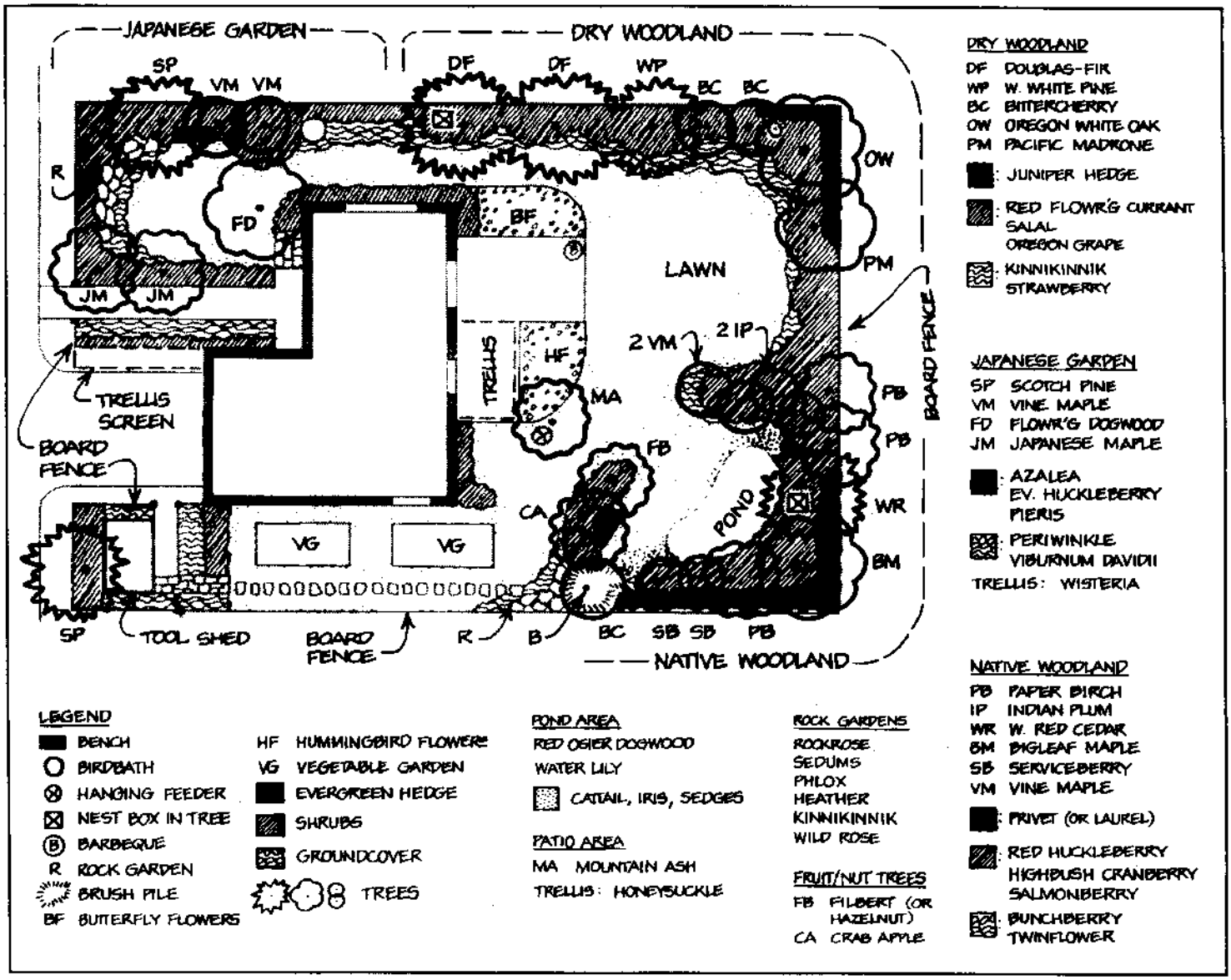


Figure 7. The final habitat landscape plan contains all of the details. This kind of plan is simply a refinement of the previous bubble diagrams, and it will be the guide as you put down the pencil and pick up the shovel.

Choosing plants for your final landscape plan

1. Choose those plants that will provide a variety of seeds, berries, nectar (flowers), and good cover. Avoid sterile varieties (those that do not produce fruits or seeds).

2. Pay attention to sun, water, and soil needs of each plant species and place them in your yard where they will best flourish. Most plants are fairly tolerant but prefer certain conditions. Be sure to check with nurseries and garden books.

3. Consider height at maturity and other features such as fall color, showy flowers, aroma, or unique leaf shape. Combine for aesthetic variety.

4. Keep in mind how plants aid in energy conservation and comfort by letting in winter sun, protecting from prevailing winter winds, and shading the summer heat. Evergreens give winter protection for you and wildlife but will block the sun. Many deciduous trees have good food for wildlife and allow in winter warmth; they do not protect from winter winds.

5. Note any special problems some plants might have, such as weak wood, messy fruit, peeling bark, attractiveness to aphids, or invasive roots.

6. You will probably find more than one plant that fits the needs of a certain spot. Cost, availability, and personal preferences for unique features may influence your final selection. The best time to buy plants is March and April when nurseries have their largest selections and plants are still dormant.

Additional Ideas and Information

Getting your hands dirty

Now that you've done your homework, its time to put your ideas into action. Before you begin, get some final evaluations from friends to help spot oversights or potential problems in your plan. Plant nurseries can also offer good reviews.

At this point, the techniques required to plant a yard for wildlife are the same as planting and maintaining a yard for any other purpose. Refer to garden books and nurseries for information on soil preparation, planting techniques, watering, fertilizing, pest and disease control, pruning, etc. One of the best guides is Sunset's *New Western Garden Book*

Increasing awareness

Finally, don't forget to relax and enjoy your developing landscape. It will take time to mature and a year or two may go by before it is discovered by wildlife and the word gets out. A more conscious awareness of the plants and animals in your yard will add a new dimension of colors, sights, and sounds to your outdoor experiences. Learning about the living things in your yard and experimenting with new ways to furnish habitat resources will provide benefits to you and to the animals that share your living space.

A word about pesticides

Avoid pesticides as much as possible. Most of the birds in your neighborhood, especially young birds still in the nest, need insects for survival. Only a few insects are really "bad", but chemical pesticides kill good insects as well as bad ones.

Learn about *integrated pest management*. A good source of information is the Elisabeth C. Miller Library at the Center for Urban Horticulture, University of Washington in Seattle (206-543-8616). Your county extension office may also have information about alternatives to pesticides.

Other useful ideas to help wildlife:

* Put up bird houses in March for chickadees, wrens, swallows, and woodpeckers.
* Provide separate bird feeders for millet, sunflower seeds, thistle seeds, and suet so birds can choose their favorite.
* Plant specialty gardens such as flowering nectar patches for hummingbirds and butterflies (Department of Wildlife has publications to help you with these).
* Convert some of your lawn to meadow flowers.
* Instead of cement paths, plant a hardy ground cover that can be walked on.
* Plant extra for wildlife in your vegetable garden and let it go to seed in the fall for your bird feeding program.
* Leave shrubs unprunned as much as possible.
* Mulch with lawn clippings and leaf litter, and pile shrub and tree clippings under your trees.
* Make a dust bath for birds (a shallow hollow in the ground with dry dirt).
* "Plant" a 6'-8' snag (dead tree) as an alternative to artificial nesting boxes (you can make the cavity yourself).
* "Plant" a log in a secluded spot for salamanders and for wrens, sparrows, robins, & towhees to perch on and look for bugs.
* Keep a diary of your wildlife observations.
* Join the Department of Wildlife's Backyard Sanctuary Program and officially designate your yard as a special place for wildlife. For information, write to:

(in Western Washington)
Sanctuary Program
16018 Mill Creek Blvd.
Mill Creek, WA 98012

(in Eastern Washington
Sanctuary Program
N. 8702 Division St.
Spokane, WA 99218

Inventory Checklist

The following features should be considered when designing your backyard habitat. Mark the location of existing items on your base map.

A. Structures and hard surfaces

_____ House and other buildings
- _____ Doors & windows, especially those with views
- _____ Porches/decks/patios

_____ Sidewalks, driveways, paths
_____ Overhead & underground utilities
_____ Fences
_____ Children's play areas and play structures

B. Vegetation

_____ Existing trees & shrubs; note spread
_____ Lawn areas
_____ Garden area
_____ Trellis/arbor
_____ Flower boxes and beds

C. Wildlife features

_____ Burrows
_____ Tree cavities
_____ Dead or partly dead trees (snags)
_____ Nesting areas
_____ Perching areas
_____ Drinking/feeding areas
_____ Refuge areas
_____ Travel corridors
_____ Existing bird feeders, bird baths, bird houses
_____ Hazards to wildlife

D. Environmental conditions

_____ Sunny areas, shaded areas
_____ Wet areas, dry areas
_____ Streams, ponds
_____ Slopes
_____ Prevailing winds, summer and winter
_____ Sources of noise

E. Adjacent conditions

_____ Neighboring trees
_____ Neighboring buildings, roadways

F. Soil conditions (optional)

_____ Soil composition
_____ Acidity
_____ Nutrients

Note: Test each area that may have different soil conditions.

References

Butterfly Gardening by the Xerces Society, 1990.
Designing with Plants by Richard Austin, 1982.
Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest by Arthur Kruckeberg, 1982.
Landscaping with Nature by Jeff Cox, 1991.
Natural Vegetation of Oregon and Washington by Jerry Franklin and C. Dyrness, 1973.
Nature's Design by Carol Smyser, 1982.
Sunset Western Garden Book by Elizabeth Hogan (editor. Sunset Books), 1990.
The Natural Garden by Ken Druse, 1989.

Seeing is Believing

Seeing how something works in the field is often helpful. Demonstration areas for urban wildlife habitat have been developed by the Department of Wildlife and cooperating agencies in Bellevue and Spokane. Each area has been enhanced for wildlife by using the principles outlined in this booklet. You are invited to visit these demonstration areas to get ideas for your own yard.

New demonstration areas are being developed. Contact the Department of Wildlife for information on these new projects. In western Washington, call the Mill Creek office at 206-775-1311. In eastern Washington, call the Spokane office at 509-456-4082.

BELLEVUE

The Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station in Bellevue is a demonstration area where a typical "manicured" yard has been converted to a haven for wildlife. Habitat diversity was attained by adding many species of plants and special habitat features, including a hummingbird garden, butterfly garden, native woodland edge, and a wildlife pond. Further out into the greenbelt a large patch of spirea was excavated to create a large pond for wildlife. A popular hiking trail allows visitors to enjoy this beautiful urban park.

The Ranger Station is located at 15416 SE 16th in Bellevue. A Ranger with Bellevue Parks & Recreation is there much of the time to answer questions and give tours of the area.

SPOKANE

Two habitat areas demonstrating a range of possibilities for landscaping for wildlife have been developed at Manito Park in Spokane. A specialty garden catering to the special needs of hummingbirds and butterflies has been incorporated into the formal Ferris Perennial Gardens. South of Rose Hill, an acre of timbered and open habitat has been enhanced for wildlife. As in Bellevue, the addition of many native plant species and several special habitat features has increased the area's diversity and improved its value to wildlife.

To get to Manito Park, take the Downtown/Division exit off I-195 and go south on Browne. Manito is located on Grand Boulevard between 17th and 25th Avenues.

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Serving Washington's wildlife and people— now and in the future